

The Herald of Freedom.

O. W. BROWN, Editor.

Lawrence, Saturday, Aug. 25, 1855.

Reduced to Serfdom.

We have before us a pamphlet of two leaves of which the following is the title page:—"An act to punish offenses against slave property. Passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas, Aug. 14, 1855. Published by authority. Shawnee M. L. S. John T. Brady, Public Printer, 1855." Turning over the leaf we read as follows:—

AN ACT TO PUNISH OFFENSES AGAINST SLAVE PROPERTY.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas, That every person, bond or free, who shall be convicted of actually raising a rebellion or insurrection of slaves, free negroes or mulattoes, in this Territory, shall suffer death.

Sec. 2. Every free person who shall aid or assist in any rebellion or insurrection of slaves, free negroes or mulattoes, or shall furnish arms, or do any other act in furtherance of such rebellion or insurrection shall suffer death.

Sec. 3. If any free person shall, by speaking, writing, or printing, advise, persuade or induce any slaves to rebel, conspire against or murder any citizen of this Territory, or shall bring into, print, write, publish or circulate, or cause to be brought into, printed, written, published or circulated, or shall knowingly aid or assist in the bringing into, printing, writing, publishing or circulating, in this Territory, any book, paper, magazine, pamphlet or circular, for the purpose of exciting rebellion, insurrection, revolt or conspiracy, on the part of slaves, free negroes or mulattoes, against the citizens of the Territory or any part of them, such person shall be guilty of felony and suffer death.

Sec. 4. If any person shall entice, decoy, or carry away out of this Territory, any slave belonging to another, with intent to deprive the owner thereof of the services of such slave, or with intent to effect or procure the freedom of such slave, he shall be adjudged guilty of grand larceny, and on conviction thereof, shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten years.

Sec. 5. If any person shall aid or assist in enticing, decoying, or carrying away or sending out of this Territory, any slave belonging to another, with intent to procure or effect the freedom of such slave, or with intent to deprive the owner thereof of the services of such slave, he shall be adjudged guilty of grand larceny, and on conviction thereof, shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten years.

Sec. 6. If any person shall entice, decoy, or carry away out of any State or other Territory of the United States, any slave belonging to another, with intent to procure or effect the freedom of such slave, or with intent to deprive the owner thereof of the services of such slave, he shall be adjudged guilty of grand larceny, and on conviction thereof, shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten years.

Sec. 7. If any person shall entice, decoy, or carry away out of this Territory, any slave belonging to another, with intent to procure or effect the freedom of such slave, or with intent to deprive the owner thereof of the services of such slave, he shall be adjudged guilty of grand larceny, and on conviction thereof, shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten years.

Sec. 8. If any person shall entice, decoy, or carry away out of this Territory, any slave belonging to another, with intent to procure or effect the freedom of such slave, or with intent to deprive the owner thereof of the services of such slave, he shall be adjudged guilty of grand larceny, and on conviction thereof, shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten years.

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This Territory, shall sit as a juror on the trial for the prosecution for any violation of any of the sections of this act.

This act to take effect and be in force from and after the fifteenth day of September, A. D. 1855.

J. H. STRINGFELLOW,

Speaker of the House.

Attest, J. M. LEE, Clerk.

THOMAS JOHNSON,

President of the Council.

Attest, J. A. HALDEMAN, Clerk.

Freemen of Kansas: there is the act framed by demagogues in Missouri, and which has passed through all the formalities of legislation by that body of men convened at the Shawnee Manual Labor School, and claiming the right to enact laws to govern this Territory. Its purpose is apparent in every line, which was to make the people of Kansas Territory as "lame as a cripple." Those persons who will submit to such mockery in the name of law are fit to wear the name.

The 11th, 12th and 13th sections.

Look these over again, reader! They are designed to enslave the press, to reduce us to a condition more humiliating than was imposed on the press of France during the most exciting period in her late revolutionary history. Louis Bonaparte, with all his tyranny, is excelled by this inquisitorial movement. A correspondent of the Leavenworth Herald, speaking of this damning outrage upon freedom says:—

"The Lawrence editors will soon have an opportunity to resist the law and consult authorities of Kansas. Let them carry out their threats if they will, and they will find the benefits of the law."

Yes; and we will "posit" it to the last extremity, and defy the "authorities" that enacted it! Let them send their minions here to enforce it, and though we stand single handed and alone, the "fanatics" who surround us shall learn that there is one spirit which is not fettered! We had rather die a thousand deaths than submit to a degradation so great as quietly yielding obedience to that emanation of the draconian age.

We shall "write, print, publish and circulate" whatever we think will best advance the interests of our country; and at all times, in all places, and on all occasions, *defy the right* of any person to hold his fellow in bondage, and particularly in the Territory of Kansas. We deem the institution of slavery a usurpation of authority; in violation of natural rights; and in derogation of human and divine laws.

We ask no favors at the hands of a body of men sent thither from Missouri to convert us into chattels. We have submitted quite long enough to their behests; and when the 15th day of September shall come they may send their minions here to arrest us if they choose; for we shall speak, write, and, we trust, print on that day a "denial of the right of persons to hold slaves in this Territory."

We are an American citizen! The stars and stripes of our country have thus far waved over us, and protected us from oppression! When it shall cease to do so; when it shall be converted into an instrument of enslavement let the gibbet, the scaffold or the dungeon commence its work. For us, we will never be enslaved! Others may toll beneath the lash, and may suffer all the horrors of slavery if they choose, but that condition is for others than ourselves. We come to Kansas, to live or die a free man! That condition we shall maintain.

Talk about "popular sovereignty," but let its advocates for Kansas first strike down the man at the White House who has brought this degradation upon us! Had Frank Pierce been as ready to sustain Gov. REEDER in the north, as he was to send a trembling fugitive into bondage, to-day no edict like the above would have been pending over the people and press of this Territory.

The authors of that bill of enslavement which we copy, shall be enrolled on the scroll of infamy; their names shall be a stench in the nostrils of all men; the dogs in the streets shall growl at their presence; and the very stones cry out with rage as they pass. Little children, as they go along the street, shall point their fingers towards them, and hiss between their teeth: "There goes a fiend who descended to the very foot of the ladder of degradation that he might subvert the cause of human oppression."

We invite attention to an article in another place, from the Missouri Democrat, in relation to this law (?) Had we doubts previous to this of our duty to repudiate and resist this Quasi-Legislature, we should have none hereafter. The people have taken the initiative, and they will not when the time comes.

The Next Congress.

The Senate will stand, as at present constituted and politically divided, 39 Nebraska men to 19 anti-Nebraska.

There are four vacancies—ones in Pennsylvania, one in Alabama, one in Missouri, one in Indiana.

The House now stands 123 anti-Nebraska to 46 Nebraska. There are yet 60 seats to be filled from districts that in the last Congress sent 20 Whigs and 43 Democrats. If all these seats are filled with Nebraska-Pierces men, then freedom will have a majority of 22 in the House—enough to keep out any new slave State that may march at the doors of the Union for admission.

Confirmed.

The news is confirmed that Mr. DAWSON declines the appointment as Governor of Kansas, and that WILSON SHANNON, of Ohio, has been appointed in his place. It is understood that Mr. Shannon accepts the appointment. He will probably arrange it so as to keep away from the Territory until the Donkeys at the Shawnee Mission shall have gone back into Missouri.

Gov. Reeder in Pennsylvania.

The Crawford Journal, a leading Whig paper of Western Pennsylvania, has run up the name of Gov. REEDER as a candidate for Canal Commissioner of that State. This office, in importance, as well as emoluments, is only second to that of Governor, and is held three years.

We copy the leader from the Journal, but would suggest that we have our doubts whether Gov. Reeder would accept the office. He has never been an aspirant for political favors, on the contrary, prefers the retirement of home, and home associations. We do not know whether Gov. R. would accept the office of United States Senator, but we would suggest to our cotemporaries that were he in that position he could do more for Kansas than any other person in the nation, and we think a Legislature should be elected this fall which will be right on that question. What does the Journal say to this suggestion?

"CANAL COMMISSIONER.—The dismissal of Gov. REEDER, from the Governorship of Pennsylvania, calls for an expression of indignation from the Pennsylvania press which can be imagined in no ordinary way. She has spoken, it is true, in the last election for Governor and Congressional Representatives, but the people are anxious to make direct issue with the national administration on the question of slavery propagation, and speak through the ballot-box in tones which cannot be misunderstood. We propose, therefore, that the friends of Pennsylvania, without regard to party considerations or ties, to nominate and cast their votes for Gov. A. H. REEDER. In token of our own intentions, we raise his name to-day, at the head of our columns. Hitherto, we know, that he has been allowed to us in politics. But in his dismissal Pennsylvania has been insulted—Freedom has been trampled upon—and the ruffians of Missouri have triumphed. We are, therefore, disposed to throw all other considerations to the winds, and let the people of Pennsylvania speak out, by a direct vote. We think that an expression can be obtained by this method, that can be secured in no other. One that will make the ears of the administration tingle, and show the South that Pennsylvania will no longer submit to be trampled upon. The issue will thus be made upon the conduct of President Pierce, not only with regard to the removal of Gov. Reeder, but his uniform efforts to "crush out" freedom from Kansas, and sustain the ruffians who have taken forcible possession of the government of that Territory. To this end "we set this ball in motion," and shall follow it up with whatever ability we may possess as the most speedy and effective mode of obtaining an expression from the people. If seconded by the press, Gov. Reeder will be elected by the vast majority ever cast in Pennsylvania."

The D. D.'s.

The Missouri Democrat has a very fine article under this head. It says the politicians have lately taken upon themselves the liberty of conferring the degree of D. D. upon their voters with a most promiscuous irreverence. To illustrate its position it refers to a few late instances in which the title has not only been imposed by unappointed lands, but what, as is not always the case in the ministry, it has stuck. This it was only a short while since that Senator Benton gave the accolade of Petit, of Indiana, and afflicted the D. D. (Dr. D. D.) indelibly upon his scutcheon. In like manner he imprinted upon Douglas' crest the talismanic words, D. D. (Debauched Douglas) and they seem riveted to all eternity. And lastly, we must not omit the distinctions which have been gleaned in Missouri. Who does not recall the first application of the significant monogram, D. D., to the somewhat renowned ex-Senator from Missouri, David R. Atchison, and yet who shall doubt but that he will be known to history, if ever he is exhumed in the future, as Drunken Davy.

Exploration of Kansas.

We mentioned in another place that Doct. WARR had set out on a general exploration voyage of Kansas, with the view of making himself fully acquainted with its natural history. It will be remembered that Doct. W. was one of the celebrated Mexican Boundary Commission, and his experience then gathered will be of infinite service to him on his present expedition. He was two and a half years on his survey over the plains, during which period he never saw a human face, save of those constituting his party. On one occasion he was lost from his party, and was ten days on the boundless desert without anything to furnish supplies, save his own unaided energies. A cotemporary says, if opportunity permits, the Doctor will, ere his return, confide his observations to the Rocky Mountains, and have the satisfaction of lying at their eastern base, as he has often done at their western.

Friends of Kansas, Read!

Not a week passes away but we receive a dozen or more applications from newspapers for an exchange. We have gratified this wish until we find we have about three hundred weekly exchanges. Three-fourths of these are valueless to us, and many are never opened for want of sufficient leisure on our part to do so.

The anxiety of the eastern press to get a reliable paper from Kansas is worthy of commendation; and our only regret is, that our small subscription list will not justify to great a tax on our purse as the supplying of the many papers desired would be. Persons wishing to aid the HERALD OF FREEDOM with pecuniary means, and at the same time advance the cause, could not do a better act than place a fund at our disposal, and allow us to send to such papers as may desire information from this region. For every dollar sent us from any source for this purpose we will send a copy of the Herald of Freedom for one year, the person sending the money furnishing the list, or we will select from the numerous applicants at this office for an exchange.

A Glorious Celebration.

We published a long letter from a Missourian two weeks ago, headed "Saddily Desecrated." We suppose everybody has read it, if not we ask them to hunt up our issue of week before last and give it an attentive perusal. It was in reply to an article in the Leavenworth Herald, finding fault with the manner the Fourth was celebrated in Lawrence.

Had the Fourth of July been celebrated in Leavenworth, as proposed by the "Squatter Sovereign," edited by the Speaker of the Quasi-Legislature of Kansas, we suppose, instead of intimating that the day was "saddily desecrated," a long article would have been published by the Herald rejoicing over the great victory accomplished for slavery, and it would have been called a "Glorious Celebration." The Sovereign, published on the 3d of July, said:

"In the absence of the customary facilities for a due commemoration of the glorious Fourth, a pleasant *pastime* and a fit type of the day we celebrate, would be the hanging of abolitionists. The devoted spirits of our revolutionary sires would greet with approval a work like this; for in their time, in this mundane sphere, it was their wont to do the utmost rigor with all traitors. Shall we, then, devote them to their example, and permit treachery to thrive and grow strong in our midst? At least let us devote a portion of this day to a calm consideration of the oppressions sought to be imposed upon us. 'Tis vain for us to contemplate, with emotions of pleasure, the memories of the morrow, while we are ourselves subject to tyrannical and arbitrary rule. Let us, then, gather fresh vigor and zeal from the reflection of the glorious achievements of our patriotic ancestors, which ought to be brought vividly before us by the remembrance of the events that have endeared the fourth day of July to every American."

Barbarous Outrage.

Rev. W. H. WILKIN, of the Methodist Episcopal Church North, gives an account in a late number of the Missouri Democrat of his violent expulsion from Cass county, Mo., by the fire-eaters of that section. He was taken to the Court House, where he found about two hundred persons of the lowest class assembled. This mock tribunal proceeded to make their charges, and without giving him an opportunity to show his innocence of them he was ordered to leave the State in seven days, and forbidden to locate in the Territory of Kansas. Mr. W. closes his letter to the Democrat as follows:

"The fair fame of Missouri is thus disgraced by hands of outlaws, for certainly such acting can be termed nothing else, and we are left to wonder how the officers of the law or the executive of the State to relieve her of the stain—Wanted: extra copies of proceedings from the spirit of '76. Can this be called a land of liberty, if such a state of affairs is allowed to continue? I, sir, am a southern man by birth, and came here from a southern city, but southern institutions are to be protected by such men as have maltreated me, I think I shall seek some spot where, at least, my dearest rights shall be free from lawless invasion. Let the citizens of Missouri think upon the circumstance which I have endeavored to describe, and let them decide what they will do. Whether they will let these fire-eating politicians ride over them rough-shod any longer, disgrace the State, and bring disgrace upon themselves and their children?"

The Press vs. Pierce.

We copy several articles on our fourth page from the leading papers of the country, denouncing President Pierce for his supineness to the slave power in removing our worthy chief magistrate, Gov. A. H. REEDER from office. The press speaks but one language, and ere its influence shall die away it will be felt at the White House. The Harrisburg, Pa., Democratic Union—than which there is not a more reliable Democratic paper in the Union—discourses as follows:—

"A blow which will recoil with terrible effect has been struck by the National Administration. Whether it was the impulse of a galvanic imbecility, ill-judging counselors, malice or disappointment, we little care. A gross and flagrant wrong has, however, been perpetrated, a wrong which, ere long, will bring shame and reproach upon those who were its instigators and its doers."

The four has passed when a species tale will deceive the people. No puerile charge of land speculation can build an argument against the storm of wrath which will be kindled. A bold, manly, honorable, fearless, and determined man has been wantonly and basely stricken down, because he asserted and would vindicate the rights of free men against a horde of lawless and law-breaking ruffians."

A Leader.

The Pittsburgh Dispatch says if we had such a man as CASSIUS M. CLAY in Kansas, the "border ruffians," when they invaded our Territory again, with their foul intentions, "would be driven back howling."

When the time shall come for action a man will be found for a leader who is worthy of the occasion. We have great confidence in the prowess of Mr. CLAY, and wish he were here to aid us in our struggle for freedom, and when he learns that a collision has taken place, if not before, we trust he will make his way thither. His name would be a tower of strength in itself; nevertheless, we would merely hint to our Pittsburgh cotemporary, that when the issue is commenced, he will be satisfied we have heroes in Kansas, those who can dare and do.

A Kansas subscriber, writing us from the Northern part of the Territory, requests us to give that mongrel Legislature—"Hark from the tomb." Our opinion is that they hear the sound already, if not they will if they attempt to enforce their infamous enactments.

A Put for the Liberator.

The American Baptist, published at Uica, New York, gives the Boston Liberator a puff over the left, which we think well merited. The editor of the Baptist says:

"Every one knows the Liberator's honesty, its fearless zeal, its persistency of purpose, its will for a 'long pull,' its will for a 'strong pull,' and its wonderful unwillingness for a 'half pull,' but for *bold, uniform and always to be relied upon*, commend us to its columns."

A Good Letter.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune writes an interesting letter in regard to Kansas matters from St. Louis on the 31st ult. It is worthy of perusal:

"Three months ago," says the writer, "I wrote you that Kansas was to be the victim of a conspiracy—that Atchison had accepted his position as the task of enslaving that Territory at all hazards. Circumstances, additional to those I gave, are revealed, and show a completeness and perfection worthy a better cause. After the success of the conspirators in securing Reeder's removal, the most important movement in the rumored session of the Quasi-Legislature from Missouri to Kansas. This tract, comprising some half dozen counties bordering on the Missouri river, north of the junction of the Kansas, is called the Platte country—I see some papers, erroneously mention the scheme as embracing only Platte county. It was originally seized by Missouri and incorporated as part and parcel of the State, in defiance of the Compromise Act; and now, it having been thoroughly peopled with slaveholders, Missouri is willing to relinquish it for the purpose of giving slavery a preponderant influence in Kansas. Could this scheme be successfully executed—and who shall say it cannot be?—the incorporation of such a fertile and densely populated region into Kansas would, of course, throw freedom there into a hopeless minority; and as a good share of the present styled Legislature of the Territory belong to this identical Platte county, and were elected by the Platte county voters, the work of legalizing that body and their enactments would be an easy one. However, I still trust in Congress to defeat this new inquiry; to accomplish it in defiance of that body—which Atchison has the hardihood to attempt—will be a step in the way of nullification which I believe even our unscrupulous Government will hardly presume to take."

"Meanwhile, sentiment at the North is not entirely right. I think it is wrong on two points. First, it is not realized that the result of the elections in Kansas is due entirely to fraud—that fraud lies at the bottom of the whole matter. It is difficult for our honest women to credit the story that Missouri has actually and lawfully did much into Kansas, *save* the ballot-boxes, depose the judges, supply their places with persons who disposed with the required aid of residence, electing, almost without opposition, the candidates they took out with them. When we express hopes for Kansas, our northern brethren ask, 'Did not the pro-slavery men carry the election?' and daring to believe the full extent and audacity of the outrage. And now, when they read that there is only one Free Soil member of the Kansas Legislature, they somehow seem to think the thing legal though unlucky. But do they realize that of these legislators the election of nearly a dozen was contested, and a new election ordered, and that the whole would have been, but for the peculiar hindrances incident to so new a country. Yet this was so, and in nearly all the precincts at this new election free State candidates were returned by very large majorities. This was the case everywhere in the interior, where the Missouri armies did not so fit to eye a third time; but on the frontier, in two or three places, pro-slavery men enough to turn the scale were sent over from Missouri. Yet all this amounted to nothing; for when these contestants, the only legally elected members of the body, appeared to claim their seats, the pro-slavery men could not but believe the full extent and audacity of the outrage. And now, when they read that there is only one Free Soil member of the Kansas Legislature, they somehow seem to think the thing legal though unlucky. 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